CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for making a medicament delivery device having a lubricated sealing member, comprising the steps of:

(a) coating the sealing member with a polymeric silicone having a plurality of polymer molecules; and

(b) irradiating the coated sealing member to thereby adhere the polymeric silicone to the sealing member.

2. The method of Claim 1 further including the steps of performing step (a) on a plurality of sealing members and placing the plurality of coated sealing members in a sealable package and wherein step (b) is performed by exposing the plurality of sealing members and the sealable package to Cobalt irradiation at a target dose between approximately 2.5 and approximately 4.0 Mrads, thereby forming a plurality of crosslinking bonds between a plurality of the polymer molecules.

3. The method of Claim 1 further including the step of placing the coated and irradiated sealing member into a non-lubricated cylindrical glass chamber of a medicament delivery device, the sealing member being slidable within the cylindrical glass chamber and in fluid-tight engagement with an interior wall of the cylindrical glass chamber.

4. The method of Claim 3 further including the step of sterilizing the coated sealing member and the non-lubricated cylindrical glass chamber after placing the coated sealing member into the non-lubricated cylindrical glass chamber.

5. The method of Claim 1 wherein step (b) includes exposing the coated sealing member to a radiation level in the range from approximately 2.5 to 4.0 Mrads.

6. The method of Claim 1 wherein step (a) is performed by tumbling the sealing member with the polymeric silicone.

7. The method of Claim 1 further including the steps of washing the sealing member in deionized water, rinsing the sealing member in deionized water, and then drying the sealing member prior to coating the sealing member.

8. The method of Claim 1 wherein step (a) includes selecting the polymeric silicone from the group of phenyl substituted silicones consisting of dimethyldiphenylpolysiloxane copolymers; dimethyl, methylphenylpolysiloxane copolymers; polymethylphenylsiloxane; and methylphenyl, dimethylsiloxane copolymers.

9. The method of Claim 1 wherein step (a) is performed by coating the sealing member with a polymeric silicone having a viscosity in a range from about 12,500 centistokes to about 100,000 centistokes.

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